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Identical letters dated 11 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that France has responded today to a request for assistance from the Interim President of the Republic of Mali, Mr. Dioncounda Traoré. Mali is facing terrorist elements from the north, which are currently threatening the territorial integrity and very existence of the State and the security of its population.

I therefore wish to inform you that the French armed forces, in response to that request and in coordination with our partners, particularly those in the region, are supporting Malian units in combating those terrorist elements. The operation, which is in conformity with international law, will last as long as necessary. I will of course continue to keep you informed, as appropriate.

My Government would like to take this opportunity to underline that the evolving situation justifies the accelerated implementation of Security Council resolution 2085 (2012) in order to resolve all aspects of the Malian crisis, both political and military.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gérard **Araud**
Permanent Representative

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